

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

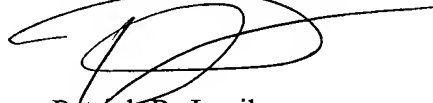
This Preliminary Amendment adds new claims. No new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request a favorable Action on the merits.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick R. Jewik
Reg. No. 40,456

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
PRJ:prj
60354126 v1